

CLAIMS

I claim:

1. A computer system comprising:
- 5 a computer network;  
one or more client computers connected to the  
computer network;  
a plurality of server computers connected to  
the computer network;
- 10 a plurality of server computer programs  
executable by the plurality of server computers,  
wherein one or more of the server computer  
programs comprise computer instructions for:
- 15 receiving an initial request for an  
address of one of the server computers from  
one of the client computers;  
selecting one of the server computers  
based on status;
- 20 sending to the client computer an  
address of the selected server computer;  
receiving a subsequent request for an  
address of the selected server computer; and  
sending to the client computer an  
address for the selected server computer.
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2. The computer system of claim 1, wherein the  
server computer programs further comprise computer  
instructions for:
- 30 in response to said subsequent request,  
determining whether the selected server computer  
is operational; and

if the selected server computer is not operational, selecting a new server computer based on status and sending the address of the new server computer to the client computer.

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3. The computer system of claim 1, wherein the subsequent request includes a Site Name.

4. The computer system of claim 3, wherein at least one of the server computers is a DNS Failover server authoritative for the Site Name.

5. The computer system of claim 4, wherein the initial request includes a Pool Name.

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6. The computer system of claim 5, wherein at least one of the server computers is a DNS Load Balance server authoritative for the Pool Name.

7. The computer system of claim 6, wherein the DNS LB server and the DNS FO server are programs executed by a single computer.

8. The computer system of claim 6, wherein the DNS LB server and the DNS FO server are programs executed by separate computers.

9. The computer system of claim 4, wherein the initial request includes a Group Name.

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10. The computer system of claim 9, wherein at least one of the server computers is a DNS Load Balance server authoritative for the Group Name.

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11. A computer system comprising:  
a computer network;  
one or more client computers connected to the computer network;  
a plurality of server computers connected to  
10 the computer network;  
a plurality of server computer programs executable by the plurality of server computers, wherein one or more of the server computer programs comprise computer instructions for:  
15 determining whether one of the client computers has previously maintained a session with one of the server computers;  
extracting a host name from the first communication request not in session;  
20 determining whether the host name extracted from the first communication request not in session is a Site Name for the server, a Site Name for another server, a Group Name, or a Pool Name;  
25 redirecting the request to the Site Name for the server when the extracted host name is a Group Name or other server Site Name;  
redirecting the request to the Site Name for the server when the extracted host name  
30 is a Pool Name and the server is in the proper group;

performing both the above redirections  
such that a flag is introduced;

5           redirecting the request to the proper  
Group Name when the extracted host name is a  
Pool Name and the server is in an improper  
group; and

10           redirecting the request to the proper  
Group Name when the extracted host name is  
the Site Name for the server and the flag has  
not been introduced.

12. The computer system of claim 11, wherein the  
server computer program further comprises computer  
instructions for:

15           if the extracted host name is the Site Name  
for the server and the flag has been introduced,  
initiating a new session for the client computer  
with the server computer and delivering a page to  
the client computer from the server computer.

20           13. The computer system of claim 12, wherein the  
server computer program further comprises instructions  
for selecting a Group Name based on properties of the  
request.

25           14. The computer system of claim 12, wherein the  
server computer program further comprises instructions  
for performing admission control load overflow.

30           15. The computer system of claim 11, wherein the  
computer network is the Internet.

16. A method for distributing load among a plurality of server computers connected to one or more client computers via a computer network, the method comprising:

- 5           receiving an initial request for an address of one of the server computers from one of the client computers;
- selecting one of the server computers based on status;
- 10          sending to the client computer an address of the selected server computer;
- receiving a subsequent request for an address of the selected server computer; and
- sending to the client computer an address for the selected server computer.
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17. The method of claim 16, further comprising:

- in response to said subsequent request,
- 20          determining whether the selected server computer is operational; and
- if the selected server computer is not operational, selecting a new server computer based on status and sending the address of the new
- 25          server computer to the client computer.

18. The method of claim 16, wherein the subsequent request includes a Site Name.

- 30          19. The method of claim 18, wherein at least one of the server computers is a DNS Failover server authoritative for the Site Name.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein the initial request includes a Pool Name.

5 21. The method of claim 20, wherein at least one of the server computers is a DNS Load Balance server authoritative for the Pool Name.

10 22. The method of claim 21, wherein the DNS LB server and the DNS FO server are programs executed by a single computer.

15 23. The method of claim 21, wherein the DNS LB server and the DNS FO server are programs executed by separate computers.

24. The method of claim 19, wherein the initial request includes a Group Name.

20 25. The method of claim 24, wherein at least one of the server computers is a DNS Load Balance server authoritative for the Group Name.

25 26. A method for distributing load among a plurality of server computers connected to one or more client computers via a computer network, the method comprising:

30 determining whether one of the client computers has previously maintained a session with one of the server computers;

extracting a host name from the first communication request not in session;

determining whether the host name extracted from the first communication request not in session is a Site Name for the server, a Site Name for another server, a Group Name, or a Pool Name;  
5        redirecting the request to the Site Name for the server when the extracted host name is a Group Name or other server Site Name;

      redirecting the request to the Site Name for the server when the extracted host name is a Pool  
10       Name and the server is in the proper group;

      performing both the above redirections such that a flag is introduced;

      redirecting the request to the proper Group Name when the extracted host name is a Pool Name  
15       and the server is in an improper group; and

      redirecting the request to the proper Group Name when the extracted host name is the Site Name for the server and the flag has not been introduced.

20       27. The method of claim 26, further comprising:

      if the extracted host name is the Site Name for the server and the flag has been introduced, initiating a new session for the client computer  
25       with the server computer and delivering a page to the client computer from the server computer.

28. The method of claim 27, further comprising selecting a Group Name based on properties of the  
30       request.

29. The method of claim 27, further comprising performing admission control load overflow.

30. The method of claim 26, wherein the computer  
5 network is the Internet.

31. A computer-readable storage medium comprising a server computer program executable by at least one of a plurality of server computers connected to one or  
10 more client computers over a computer network, the server computer program comprising computer instructions for:

receiving an initial request for an address of one of the server computers from one of the  
15 client computers;

selecting one of the server computers based on status;

sending to the client computer an address of the selected server computer;

20 receiving a subsequent request for an address of the selected server computer; and

sending to the client computer an address for the selected server computer.

25 32. A computer-readable storage medium comprising a server computer program executable by at least one of a plurality of server computers connected to one or more client computers over a computer network, the server computer program comprising computer  
30 instructions for:



determining whether one of the client computers has previously maintained a session with one of the server computers;

5 extracting a host name from the first communication request not in session;

determining whether the host name extracted from the first communication request not in session is a Site Name for the server, a Site Name for another server, a Group Name, or a Pool Name;

10 redirecting the request to the Site Name for the server when the extracted host name is a Group Name or other server Site Name;

redirecting the request to the Site Name for the server when the extracted host name is a Pool Name and the server is in the proper group;

15 performing both the above redirections such that a flag is introduced;

redirecting the request to the proper Group Name when the extracted host name is a Pool Name and the server is in an improper group; and

20 *a* redirecting the request to the proper Group Name when the extracted host name is the Site Name for the server and the flag has not been introduced.

25 33. The computer-readable storage medium of claim 32, wherein the server computer program further comprises computer instructions for:

30 if the extracted host name is the Site Name for the server and the flag has been introduced, initiating a new session for the client computer

with the server computer and delivering a page to  
the client computer from the server computer.

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